Giovan Battista Carpi

Graphic Novel

Gargantua

by Rabelais







Vittorio Pavesio Productions

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Giovan Battista Carpi an interactive cartoonist

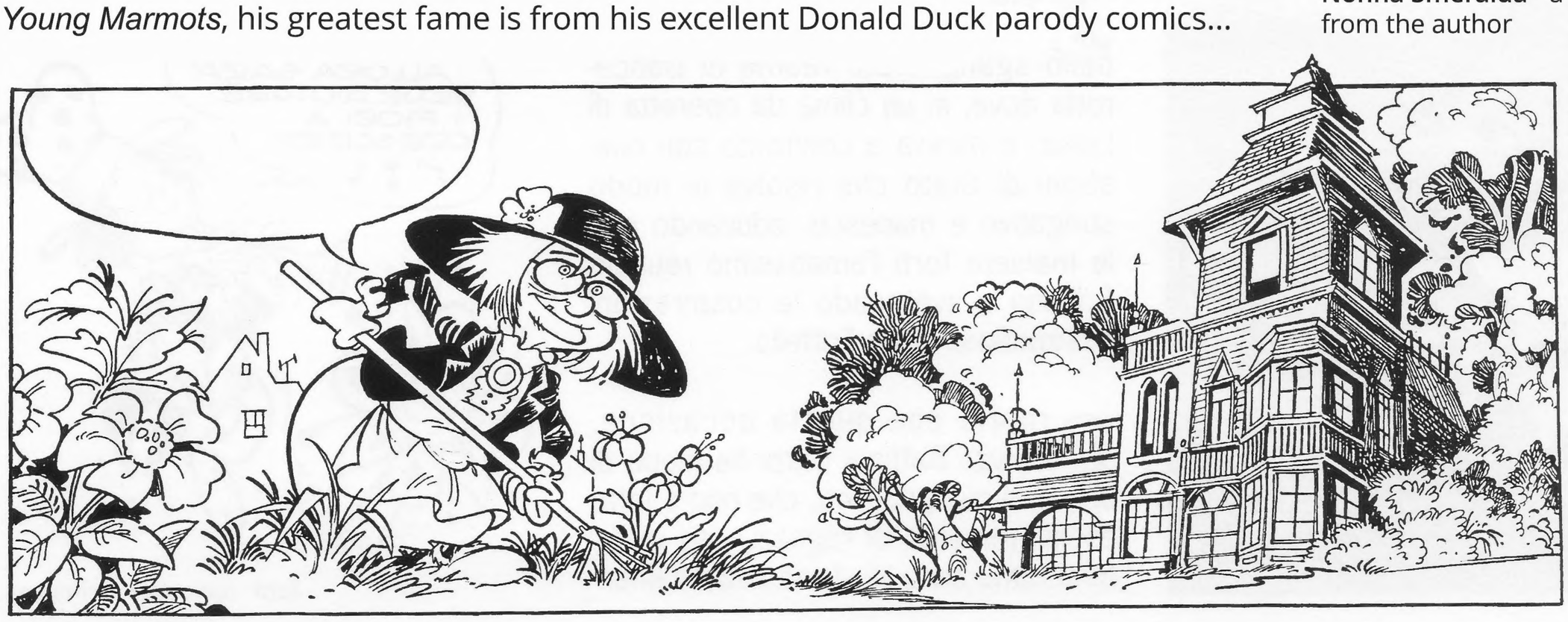
In recent years, thanks to the aggressive editorial policy undertaken by *The Walt Disney Company-Italia*, comic book readers and fans have once again been able to appreciate an enormous number of stories created in our country from the post-war period to today, published for the first time on *Topolino* and other publications. Together with those of Romano Scarpa, Luciano Bottaro, Pier Lorenzo De Vita and other "Disney Italians", these classic stories have been re-proposed on the market, together with more recent ones, including the innovative Giovan Battista Carpi - a prolific artist who in the course of his more than fifty-year career has ventured into the fields of painting, illustration, and comics.
Anyone who takes care of our small medium with balloons (fummeto) knows well how the production of Disney stories made in Italy had already borne fruit in the 1930's thanks to the initiative of Italian comic artist Frederico Pedrocchi.



Giovan Battista Carpi - pictured here in self-caricature, he was born on November 16th, 1927 in Genoa

Giovan Battista Carpi learned from the famous Italian painter Giovanni Piccolo. He made his 1945 debut comic strip *La famiglia Serafini* in Faville magazine. He joined Italian publishing house, *Mondadori*, in 1953 and became a regular on the Disney staff. Along with Gulio Chierchini, they produced many Donald Duck stories in collaboration with *Topolino* magazine. During his long and fertile militancy in the Disney world, Giovan Battista Carpi has always stood out among the Disney Italians. He worked on previous volumes such as *Carosuel Necklace*, *King Arthur*, *Pecos Bill and the Great Tribe*, *Donald Duck* and many others. Although he saw international success with the *Handbook of Young Marmots*, his greatest fame is from his excellent Donald Duck parody comics...

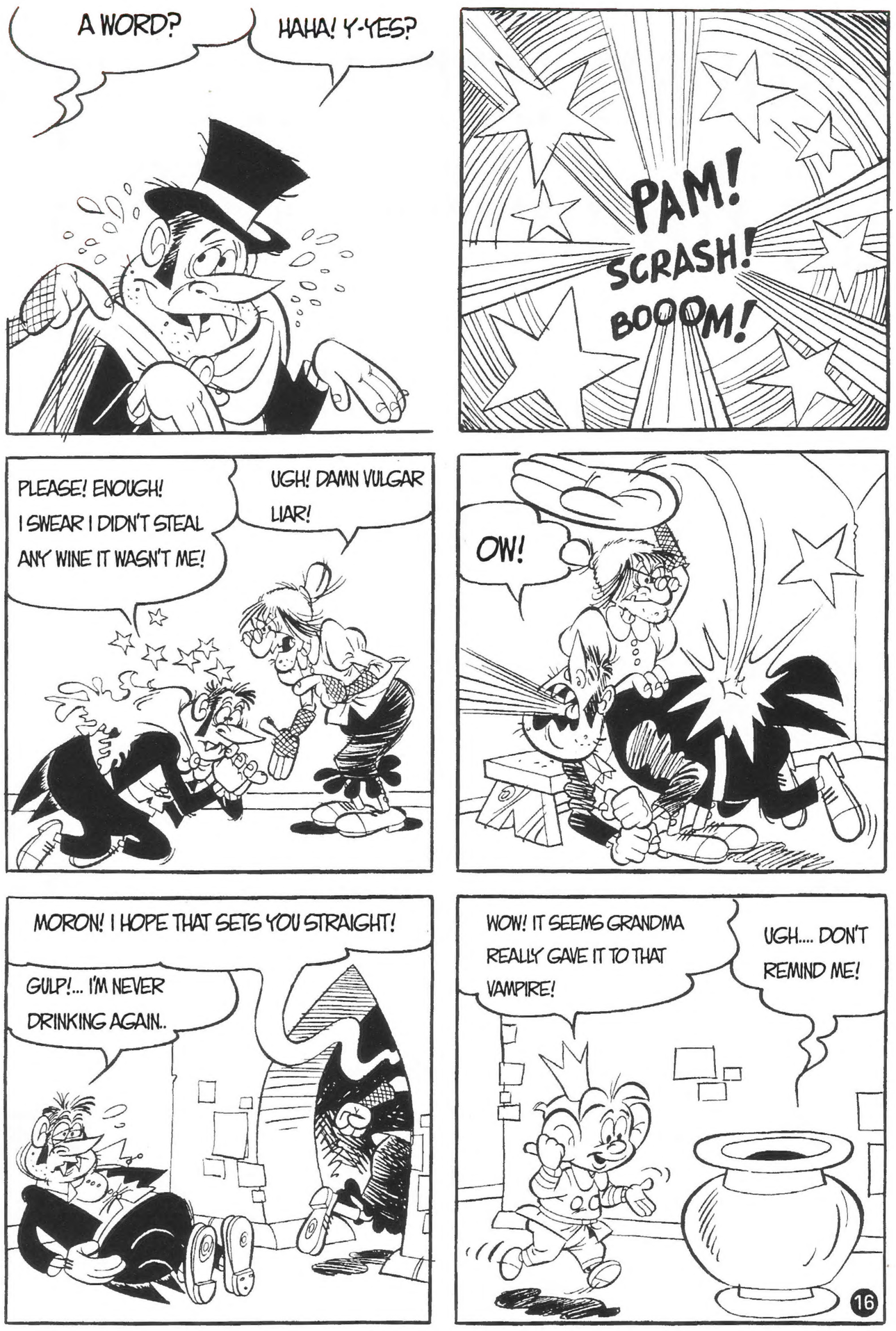
Nonna Smeralda - a character from the author





... strongly inspired by American comic artists. Carpi developed his own style, formed from learning from many other artists. With Elisa Penna and Guido Martina, he created one of the most enduring Donald Duck spin-offs in Italian comics, namely 'Paperinik', AKA. 'The Duck Avenger'. It features Donald fighting crime at night as a masked superhero. Originally the creators imagined him as a parody of Angela and Luciana Giussani's 'Diabolik'. These characters are still printed today.

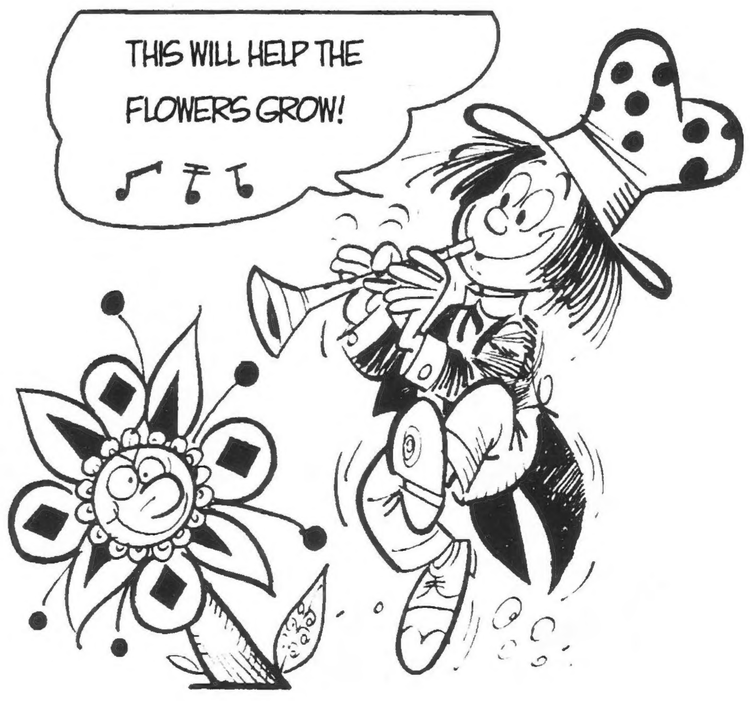
Carpi eventually undertook a collaboration with Bianconi publishing house, which would prove to be very influential for the development of Italian comics. With Renato Bianconi, head of Edizioni Bianconi, Carpi created beloved and entertaining characters like the "trapper" Raviolo Kid, the athropomorphic couple of Okey Papero and Mao Duemoustache, the penniless crow Chico, the wandering medieval figures of Salvatore and Chitarrone, and the good-hearted devil, Geppo. These characters have proudly grounded themselves in Italian comic history.





Notably, a new character was created from the Bianconi collaboration that would cement herself in italian pop culture - the character of Nonna Albelarda, the loving grandmother of Soldino, a young sovereign of Bancarotta, a small nation state with money troubles.

Despite dangerous enemies, Albelarda succeeds to put things back together every time. Among the numerous antagonists, the masked thief Malvagik, the evil scientist Professor Magnus, Nik and Nok, and the "Barbudos", military of a rogue state.





Disney comics have been heavily influenced by Italian artists. Carpi's unique comic style, enriched with satirical twists, carries a vein of madness that adds to his work on Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck, and is deeply ingrained in everything else that he touches. While not written by Carpi himself, these Disney stories undergo interesting changes with him involved. Carpi, along with other Italian authors, incorporate dominant themes from Italian culture (comedy films, post-war sentiments, theatrical sketches, and television shows of the time), while retaining the essential characteristics of the characters, such as their nature, relationships, and other elements.

The architecture, cityscapes, flora, and furnishings in Carpi's illustrations bear a close resemblance to the everyday life of average Italians, adding a touch of relatability for Italian audiences.

Guido Martina, an esteemed screenwriter for Disney, contributes significantly to the Mickey Mouse stories, particularly those that feature the character of Paperino. He adds a touch of maturity that is typically absent in most plots but eagerly welcomed by an Italian audience. Carpi, recognized by Martina himself, is described as the best interpreter of the unconventional stories that he sends to the editorial staff. In a handful of Bianconi published stories that were given complete artistic creative freedom, Carpi, the cartoonist from Liguria, took things even further, infusing the stories with surprising energy and even aggressiveness.

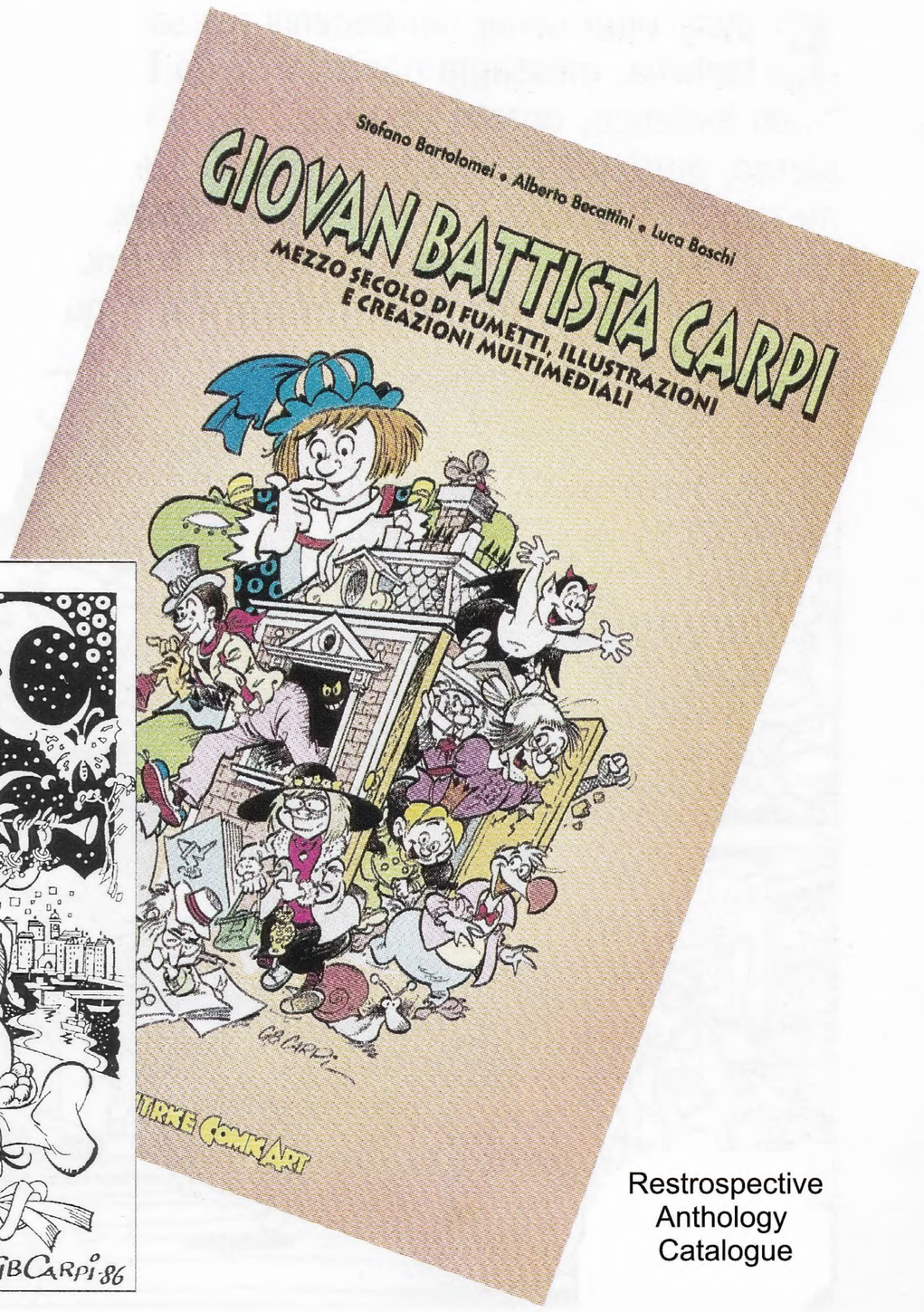


Beniamino - The hill of Happiness 1987

Carpi is not afraid to show themes of suffering and hardship. The character of Chico, resembling a more negative and unfortunate Donald Duck, is constantly burdened by debts and forced to fight against arrogant characters and spies in his quest for survival. Carpi channels these themes into the tales of Mao and Okey and the two penguins Horace and Arthur, published in forgotten books like "Overseas Voices" or "Tam-Tam." Not to mention the impulsive escapades of Nonna Abelarda, who effortlessly smashes through walls, doors, and furniture with lightning-fast punches, all without the need for a "magic" can of spinach as a propellant.

It is important to highlight that the quality of these lesser known stories, created for Renato Bianconi, match the same level of excellence as Carpi's contemporary works for Disney. Carpi's stories go beyond the realm of traditional comics, showcasing a superior level of artistry compared to the popular comics published in books at the time.





Restrospective Anthology Catalogue





In our country, we have a unique kind of comic culture that, unfortunately, has not received the same level of attention as properlies like Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. These comics are still awaiting a serious revival from contemporary publishers who recognizes their value and their potential to entertain today's audience. Throughout his career, Giovan Battista Carpi, the creator of such comics, has always prioritized meeting expectations of his readers and delivering the best possible work.

His creative drive has often led him to be a perfectionist, often completely redesign the comic panels if they aren't up to standards, investing a significant amount of time and effort to ensure they are acceptable before presenting to publishers.

If you were to see these panels, you might appreciate even their beauty and wonder why they have faced such criticism from their designer. Apart from his work in comics, Carpi has also ventured into new technological horizons, exploring CD-ROM adaptations of his ecological fairy tale, "The Hill of Happiness." However, his unwavering love for printed comics remains steadfast. He once wrote, "We will continue to ride the fragile steeds of printed paper in the company of those who still wish to join us in the innocent yet meaningful attempt to renew the enchantments of childhood. These enchantments are still cherished by many, and for others, they have become memories within the vast realms of imagination."



Thus, even today, Carpi continues to convey a wealth of positive messages, and good humor to his readership. While these readers may be distracted by the constant barrage of chaotic and attention-grabbing media of today, they cannot help but love the masterful comic panels created by great artists like Carpi, the father of Soldino.



Nonna Smeralda - grappling with the new world of constant advertising and television



Gargantua Becomes a Comic

The famous benedictine Francois Rabelais was a scientific scholar, doctor at the French hospital in Pont-du-Rhone, and a writer with explosive joie de vivre, and above all, an extremely curious man. Hidden under the secret identity of Alcofribas Nasier (an anagram of his name), Rabelais gifted to France a masterpiece of European Renaissance literature: *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. Although initially condemned by the Sorbonne, it developed considerable success with readers in the first decades of the sixteenth century.

Originally, the goal of Rabelais-Nasier consisted only in combining his three "serious" books written in 1532 together, and to hopefully produce a sure-fire best-seller to present at the Lione fair, in November of that year.

What came out of his pen was the baroque *"The Horrible and Terrifying Deeds and Words of the Very Renowned Pantagruel King of the Dipsodes, Son of the Great Giant Gargantua"*, which was a massive hit. The success of the work inspired the author to write a sequel years later with text intended to add to his existing work. It was here that Rabelais fathered *"The Very Horrific Life of Great Gargantua, Father of Pantagruel"* where he recounted the classic tales of Gargantua that occurred before the whimsical and funny adventures of Pantagruel.

Gargantua was published in *"Smack"* (1979) and completed in *"Piu"* (1983).



The comic you are about to read is inspired by Rabelais' text, re-imagined by Carpi, who's philosophy is that a story can be for "everyone" but can still retain the author's taste for complex characterizations.

Brief appearance of **Gargantua** on *"Wow"* (1982)



Editorially, the Gargantua designed by Giovan Battista Carpi was born at the end of the 1970s for a quality monthly series published by children's magazine, *Smack*, which published works from various artists, including Guillermo Mordillo, Oski (Oscar Conti), Carlos Sampayo, and Vauro Senesi. Carpi has taken on the difficult the challenge of adapting Rabelais' complex adult work for a younger audience, with help from his creative screenwriter partner Michelle "Mig" Gazzari, who helped with his other classic Disney creations, such as *Sandpaper e la Perla di Labuan*.



After the sudden closure of Smack and the cutting of *Gargantua* to only six chapters, this comic strip adaptation of Rabelais' masterpiece is finally republished here in full after its journey through *Smack*, *Wow*, and *Più*. The first and last chapters are printed in black and white as a creative choice by Carpi. The color was done in collaboration with *Mantelli Studios* and Carpi, who took great planning care to place the correct color films on the back of the printing plates. Unfortunately, during the reproduction for *Più*, some colorings were carried out incorrectly by only sourcing the original printing plates and not consulting the author, which has produced some less-than-ideal results.

The most trained eye will have no difficulty distinguishing the pages where which, for technical reasons in the photo reproduction process, the ink has less sharp tones than others. But, apart from these printing issues, we hope you enjoy Gargantua in its entirety. The recent rediscovery of this little jewel has laid the inspiration for another series by Carpi where he will illustrate the wonderful and ridiculous adventures of Gargantua's son, Prince Pantagruel. It is to be inspired by French folk legends and heavily veiled with the biting satire from Rabelais' classical work. Carpi is no stranger to creating captivating stories, ever since he brought life to the realm of *Bancarotta*.

Luca Boschi



GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -

G.B. CARPI

THE GIANTS? DID THEY REALLY EXIST?

IT'S NO LEGEND, CHILDREN!

WE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A LEGEND!

THEY WERE REAL FLESH-AND-BLOOD MEN (MORE FLESH THAN BONE, MIND YOU). THEY WERE AS TALL AS HOUSES, WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN ELEPHANTS, CAPABALE OF PERFORMING WONDERFUL DEEDS...

BUT WHY AREN'T THERE ANY GIANTS AROUND TODAY?

BECAUSE THIS WORLD HAS BECOME TOO SMALL, TOO HOSTILE, TOO UNFRIENDLY FOR THEM. THE GIANTS NEEDED SPACE AND PEOPLE WILLING TO TO ACCEPT THEM.

I WOULD LOVE TO MEET ONE! TELL US ABOUT THEM, GRANDMA.

TELL US ABOUT WHERE AND WHEN THEY LIVED.

GLADLY, CHILDREN...

IT WAS A HAPPY KINGDOM. EVERY TABLE IN EVERY HOUSE WAS ALWAYS FULL OF DELICIOUS HAM AND WINE. THE SOIL WAS FERTILE, THE WATERS RAN WITH FISH, AND THE CLIMATE WAS PERFECT. THE CITIZENS WERE LOVELY AND FESTIVE PEOPLE.

THE CIVICALLY FRIENDLY TAILOR...

THE JOLLY FARRIER BLACKSMITH...

THE MASTERFUL ARMORSMITH...

AND THE KING? WHO WAS THE KING OF THE HAPPY COUNTRY?

WAITING?

THE KING'S NAME WAS **GRANGOLA** AND HE WAS WAITING....

YES! BECAUSE JUST THAT DAY, QUEEN GARGAMELLA, WAS ABOUT TO GIVE HIM HER FIRSTBORN.

"... LIKE ANY SELF-RESPECTING FATHER-TO-BE, GRANDGOLA PACED NERVOUSLY AROUND THE CASTLE'S ANTICHAMBER, STRESS EATING ON SALAMI STRINGS AND ABOUT TEN POUNDS OF SEASONED HAM..."

I HOPE IT'S BORN SOON. I DONT WANT TO RUIN MY APPETITE WITH THIS UNSCHEDULED SNACK...

UUEEE

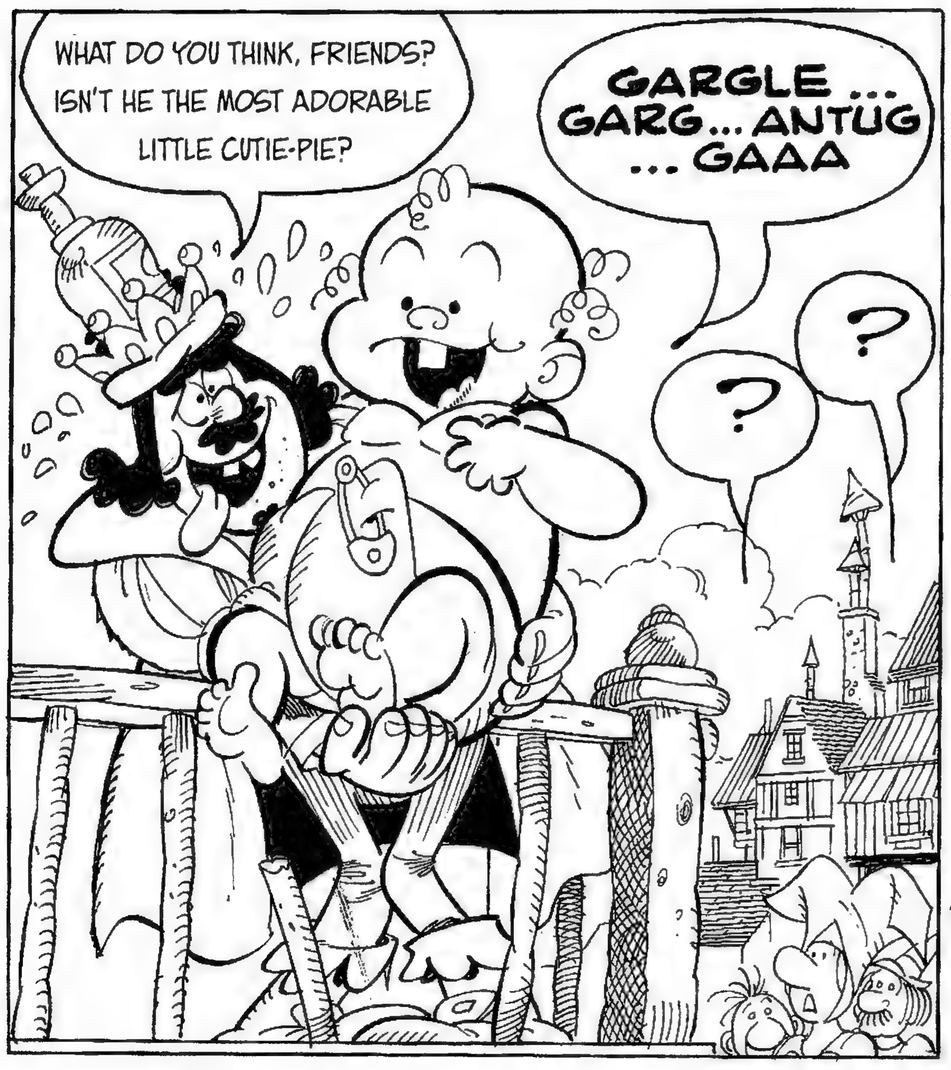
YES?

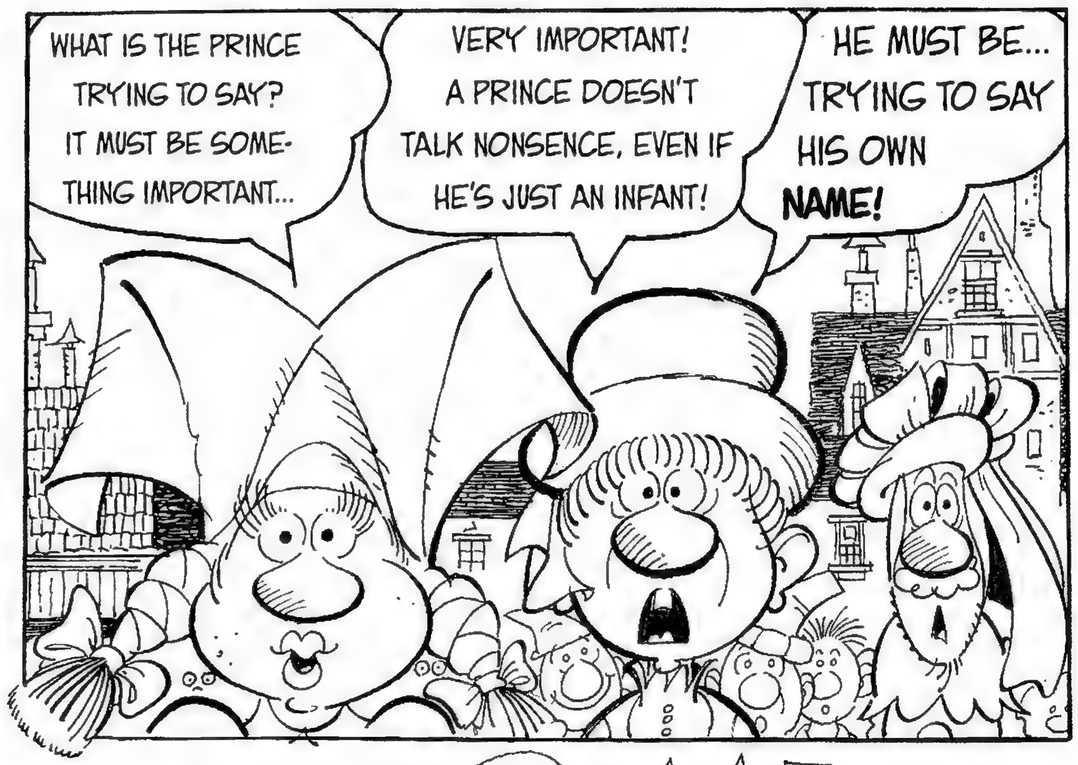
CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR MAJESTY. YOU HAVE AN HEIR!


HE'S BOOORN!


REJOICE, EVERYONE! FORGET YOUR WORRIES AND GO CELEBRATE THE NEW PRINCE!
LOREM IPSUM


HURRAY! GRANGOLA WILL SURELY OFFER US THE LARGEST OF BANQUETS!
TONS OF EXQUISITE FOOD....
... HECTOLITERS OF DELICIOUS WINE!

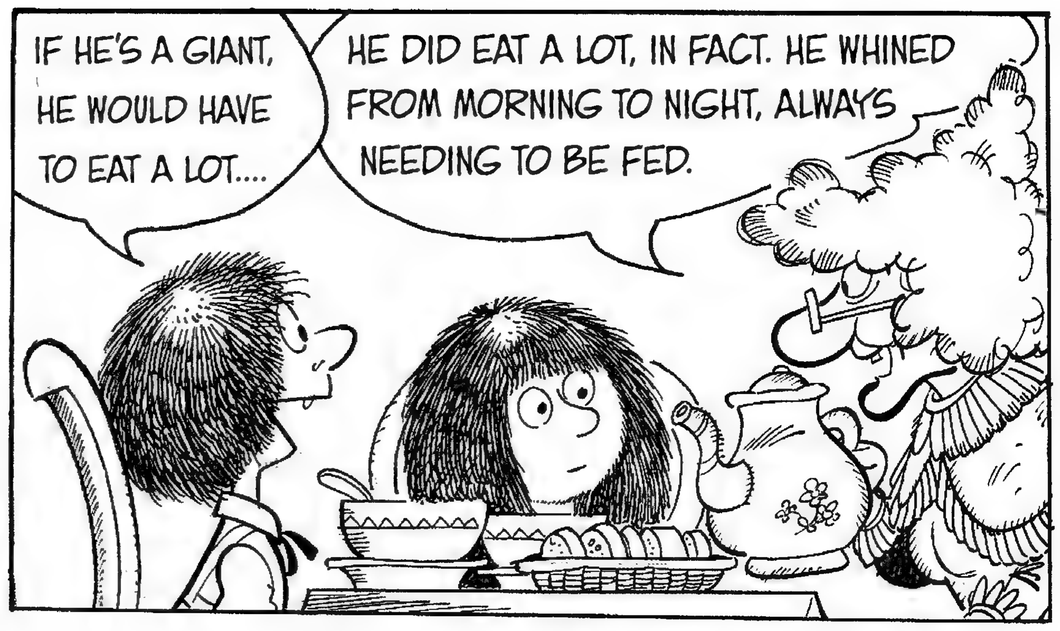

WHAT DO YOU THINK, FRIENDS? ISN'T HE THE MOST ADORABLE LITTLE CUTIE-PIE?
GARGLE ... GARG... ANTÜG ... GAAA
?
?


WHAT IS THE PRINCE TRYING TO SAY? IT MUST BE SOME-THING IMPORTANT...
VERY IMPORTANT! A PRINCE DOESN'T TALK NONSENCE, EVEN IF HE'S JUST AN INFANT!
HE MUST BE... TRYING TO SAY HIS OWN NAME!

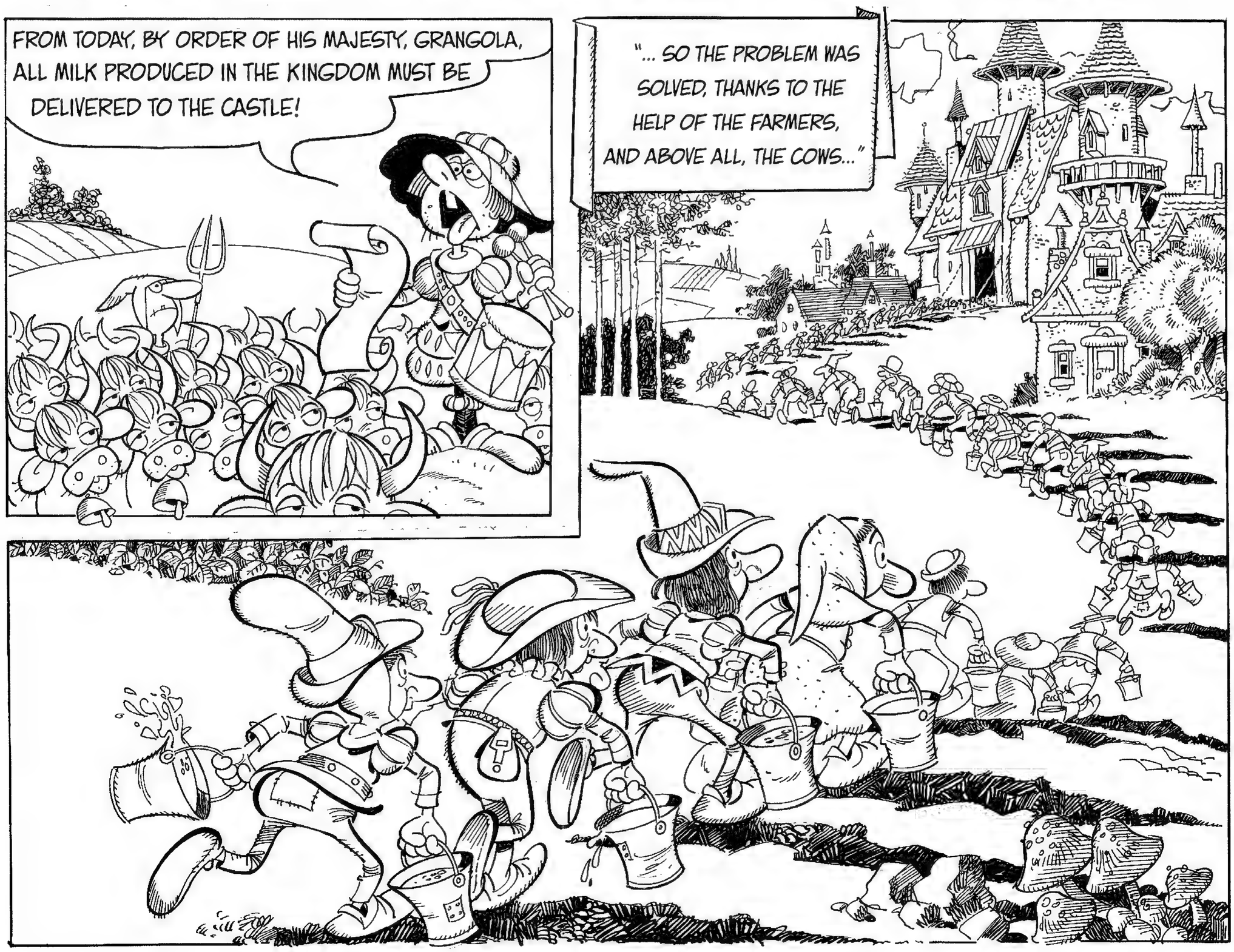
LONG LIVE GARGANTUA!

GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -







"... FINALLY GARGANTUA WAS ABLE TO FILL HIS COLOSSAL APPETITE, SLOSHING AND WALLOWING IN HIS FOOD LIKE A LITTLE PIGLET..."

GOOD DINNER!

SLURP!

GARGANTUA

G.B. CARPI - 1978

WHAT ELSE DID THEY FEED HIM BESIDES MILK?

HUGE BAGELS THE SIZE OF LIFE JACKETS, AND HALF A QUINTAL OF PASTRIES...

HUFF... I SHOULD ASK FOR A RAISE...

BEING THE "ROYAL BAKER" IS TOO EXHAUSTING!

"... GARGANTUA'S HELPERS WERE OVERWORKED..."

HUNGRY!

MORE FOOD!

HE ALWAYS ATE, GRANDMA? NEVER PLAYED?

WELL, HE DID PLAY! BETWEEN EATING AND PLAYING, THOSE WERE HIS ONLY OCCUPATIONS.

HE PLAYED HIDE AND SEEK...

HE PLAYED JUMP-ROPE...

PATTYCAKE...

TAG...

ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS...

LEAPFROG...

"... GARGANTUA BATHED WITH HIS LITTLE FRIENDS IN THE POND..."

CRASH

"... AND USED EACH MILL AS A WANDERLUST..."

"... WITH HIS HORSE HE PLOWED THROUGH THE FIELDS..."

THANK YOU, PRINCE GARGANTUA!

DON'T MENTION IT!

"... AND FROM HIS LEAPS THE EARTH SHOOK..."

"... HIS MASSIVE LEAPS AMAZED PEOPLE.."

BRAVO!

WORLD RECORD !!

STOMP

"... HE COULD RUN EXTRAORDINARILY FAST..."

AGH! NORTHERN WINDS IN THE SUMMER?!

"... AND FINALLY IN THE EVENING, DEAD TIRED, HE FELL ASLEEP LIKE ANY GOOD CHILD WOULD, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS AROUSING THE PROTESTS OF A FEW NEIGHBHORS WHO COULD NOT REST BECAUSE OF THE YOUNG PRINCE'S SNORING..."

RONF RONF

GARGANTUA

-BY RABELAIS -

DID HE EVER GET INTO TROUBLE?

TROUBLE? OF COURSE! BIG TROUBLE! ONE TIME HE TRIED TO JOIN HIS FRIENDS IN CART RACING...

SIGH... WHY CAN'T I DO THAT? I REALLY WANT TO...

THERE MUST BE A CART THATS BIG ENOUGH FOR ME!

OH, THAT'S IT! I'M SURE I CAN BORROW THAT CART!

I NEED THIS FOR A MINUTE, PLEASE! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

WOOO! I'M HERE TOO, GUYS!

STOP! THIEF!

WATCH OUT, PRINCE GARGANTUA! YOU'RE RUNNIN' TOWARDS THAT HOUSE!

UUHH!

GB CARPI - 79


SPRONG
NICE SHOT. PERFECT CENTER!
SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE BRAKES WERE!
HE'S A PETTY THIEF!
AND A HOMEWRECKER!
LET ME EXPLAIN!
BUT WHEN THEY WON'T LET YOU EXPLAIN, ALL YOU CAN DO IS CUT AND RUN!
STOP IT! THAT GIANT BRAT NEEDS TO LEARN A GIANT LESSON!
HE NEEDS A GIANT SPANKING!

GODS! IS THAT REALLY MY SON?

STOP, DAMN IT! WEARING A HOUSE IS NOT WORTHY BEHAVIOUR FOR A ROYAL PRINCE!

HERE... I'LL PAY FOR ALL THE DAMAGES.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAKESTY.

AND YOU... THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU DID!

HA! HA! THAT TICKLES!

WHAT? ARE YOU LAUGHING? I-I'LL FIX YOU UP FAST, BRAT!

CHIEF INVENTOR, I NEED YOU TO GET TO WORK, NOW!

WHAT DO YOU NEED BUILT, SIRE?

A SUPER-SPANKING MACHINE!

GIVE ME JUST A MINUTE...

HURRY UP! HURRY UP! FASTER!

ALL FINISHED, YOUR MAJESTY. LEAD THE "VICTIM"!

G.B. CARPI

COME ON, FOR COLOSSAL CHILDREN; COLOSSAL PUNISHMENTS!

SIGH!

AND THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU TO BEHAVE AS AN HEIR SHOULD!

KEEP TURNING!

SURE... BUT HE HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIS EXORBITANT SIZE! FROM THAT DAY ON, HE SWORE TO BE MORE CAREFUL.

POOR GARGANTUA. HE ONLY WANTED TO HAVE FUN.

AH... ONE..
... OH... TWO....
... UUUHH... THREE...
GUHHH... FOUR...

GARGANTUA

-BY RABELAIS -

DID HE HAVE TROUBLE FINDING CLOTHES TO WEAR?

G.B. CARPI

YES HE DID! I WOULD SAY IT WAS A ***GIGANTIC*** PROBLEM, EVEN! ESPECIALLY WHEN HE DECIDED TO VISIT PARIS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

KING GRANGOLA WANTED HIS SON TO LOOK HIS BEST FOR HIS TRIP TO THE MOST ELEGANT CITY IN THE WORLD.

SPARE NO EXPENSE! YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AMAZING, SON!

FOR THE SHIRT, THE TAILORS USED A HECTARE OF FINE FABRIC...

AN ENTIRE FLOCK OF SHEEP SUPPLIED THE WOOL FOR HIS SOCKS...

... AND TWELVE PAIRS OF OXEN THE HIDES FOR HIS ENOURMOUS BOOTS.

THE TALENTED CRAFTSMEN WORKED TIRELESSLY DAY AND NIGHT...

AND FINALLY, AFTER A MONTH OF HARD WORK...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YOUR HIGHNESS?

I SAY THE PARISIANS WILL BE AMAZED!

BUT GARGANTUA MUST HAVE NEEDED A GIANT HORSE TO TRAVEL, RIGHT?

NATURALLY...

IN FACT, GRANGOLA SENT A LETTER TO THE KING OF NUMIDA, WHERE SOME GIGANTIC ANIMALS STILL ROAMED THE EARTH.

EUROPA

AFRICA

GO NOW! QUICKLY!

YES SIR.

SOON, THE LARGEST HORSE THAT HAD EVER LIVED LEFT FOR EUROPE ABOARD THREE TRAWLERS AND A BRIG.

THE GIFT FILLED GARGANTUA'S HEART WITH INCREDIBLE JOY.

OH, MY BABY! WE'LL GET ALONG SO WELL.

WAIT HERE! I'M GOING FOR A TEST RIDE.

GIDDYUUUP!!!

HE'S ALREADY DISAPPEARED BEHIND THE HORIZON...

ONE HOUR LATER...

FATHER, I'M BACK! SORRY FOR THE DELAY.

GOING AROUND THE WORLD TOOK A LITTLE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT.

UUH!

NOW, GARGANTUA FINALLY HAD EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO EMBARK ON HIS JOURNEY.

PARIS SURELY AWAITED WITH NEW AND EXCITING ADVENTURES!

GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -

KEEP GOING, GRANDMA. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN GARGANTUA ARRIVED IN PARIS?

WELL, IT DIDN'T GO VERY WELL...

"... THEY HAD NEVER SEEN A GIANT BEFORE, AND A PANIC SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE IMMENSE CITY..."

HELLO, EVERYONE! MY NAME IS GARGANTUA, AND I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS!

HELP!

THAT'S NOT A MAN, THAT'S A MOUNTAIN...

RUN!

.... HE LOOKS NICE, THOUGH.

G.B. CARPI

HE SURE LOOKS FUNNY!

LOOK AT THIS MASSIVE HEAD!

SUCH BIG HANDS!

AND FEET!

BETTER TO CONTINUE ON FOOT. I DON'T WANT TO STEP ON ANYONE BY ACCIDENT.

WOW... WHAT A PRETTY CHURCH. IT LOOKS FAMOUS!

HEY! HEY! DID YOU ALL HEAR THAT?

HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT **NOTRE-DAME!**

I WONDER WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE WHEN ALL THE BELLS RING TOGETHER!

QUICK, SACRISTAN. WE NEED TO PLEASE A TOURIST.

MAKE HIS EARS RING!

DING

GUH!

DONG

BONG

OW! MAMMA MIA!
I FEEL DIZZY...

HA HA! YOU LOOK EVEN MORE RIDICULOUS.

LOOKS LIKE A COURT JESTER.

THAT'S ENOUGH, PARISIANS! YOU ALL PISS ME OFF!

PRINCE GARGANTUA WILL NOT BE HUMILITALED.

DLING

I'M LEAVING... BUT I'M TAKING A SOUVENIR WITH ME.

MY GOD! HE'S TAKEN THE BELLS!

GUARDSMEN!

GET HIM! DEATH TO THE GIANT!

LET'S TEACH HIM A LESSON HE WON'T FORGET!

?

HEEELP! A SUDDEN WINDSTORM!

PFUUII!

HOW EMBARASSING!

L-LOOK THE OTHER WAY, PLEASE!

THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU TO BE MORE COURTEOUS WITH FOREIGNERS, ESPECIALLY GIGANTIC ONES!

IF YOU WANT YOUR BELLS BACK, JUST COME AND GET 'EM!

TO ARMS!

SUCH A TERRIBLE OFFENSE!

REVENGE! REVENGE!

G.B.CARPI

"... AND SO, GARGANTUA GALLOPED AWAY, RATTLING THE CHURCH BELLS, AS THE PARISIANS GOT READY FOR **WAR**..."

GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -

WHAT ABOUT THE WAR? DID THEY REALLY GO TO WAR OVER A FEW BELLS?

PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS, WERE VERY EASILY PROVOKED, AND GARGANTUA KNEW IT...

GB CARPI

"... SINCE GARGANTUA HATED FIGHTING, HE DECIDED TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE CONVENT OF SEUILLE, HOPING THE PARISIANS WOULD LOSE TRACK OF HIM..."

WE NEED SOMEWHERE TO REST... I SHOULD ASK MY OLD FRIEND, FRIAR GIOVANNI FRACASSA-TUTTO...

PRAISE HEAVEN! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

HELLO... I BROUGHT YOU A LITTLE PRESENT!

NOW YOUR CONVENT HAS BEAUTIFUL BELLS!

THANK YOU, NOBLE GIANT!

DANG

DING

DONG

HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?

MMHM! MAYBE ANOTHER COUPLE OF CALVES ON THE SPIT AND HALF A DOZEN PORCHETTA, PLEASE...

ANYTHING FOR THE GIANT'S NOBLE STOMACH!

"... MEANWHILE, THE PARISIANS HAD GATHERED THEIR ARMY AND SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF GARGANTUA..."

"... AT THE HEAD OF THE INFANTRY AND CAVALRY ARTILLERY WERE RESPECTIVELY..."

"...FANFARONE, THE GREAT SQUIRE, WHO BETRAYED THE ENEMY..."

"... RASPASOLDI, LOYAL DUKE, WHO POISONED THE ENEMY..."

"... MANGIAVENTO, NOTORIOUS CAPTAIN, WHO WATCHES THE ENEMY FROM AFAR..."

"JUST TO STAY IN SHAPE, THE WARRIORS ENGAGED IN DANGEROUS BRAWLS WITH NEARBY LOCAL 'TROOPS'."

VICTORY! I CAUGHT A PIG ALL BY MY MYSELF.

AND I MANAGED TO DEFEAT AN ENTIRE DRONE SQUAD OF CHICKENS.

WAIT A MINUTE... I THINK I KNOW THAT SOUND.

THOSE ARE THE BELLS OF NOTRE-DAME.

DIN

DON

DAN

THE PETTY THIEF HAS TAKEN REFUGE IN THE CONVENT OF SEVILLE.

BUT WE CAN'T ATTACK THE POOR DEFENSELESS FRIARS.

THEN LET'S ATTACK THE VINEYARD TO FORCE HIM OUT!

FIRST PICK OF THE GRAPES, FRIENDS!

ALL FREE, KINDLY OFFERED BY THE CONVENT.

NO! THEY'RE DESTROYING THE VINEYARD. IF THEY KEEP THIS UP, THEN NEXT YEAR WE'LL HAVE TO DINE WITH WELL WATER.

YOU BRATS! STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING AT ONCE!

UUH!

REPENT! GET BACK TO THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!

UUEEE!

AND DON'T CRY... THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!

THAT'S ENOUGH! GET THAT FRIAR!

PEACE, BROTHERS, PEACE!

NOTHING GOOD EVER COMES FROM VIOLENCE.

POM!

BAM!

CIAF!

HEY... WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S ALL THIS RUCKUS ABOUT?

THERE HE IS! WE FOUND HIM! ATTACK, MY BRAVE SOLDIERS!

CAREFUL, GUYS, CAREFUL... YOU COULD GET HURT.

IN THE NAME OF THE KING, WE CLAIM THE GIANT!

GET HIM!

POUND HIM!

BUT DID HE LOSE THE BATTLE, GRANDMA?

YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER! TRY USING YOUR IMAGI-NATIONS...

GARGANTUA

-BY RABELAIS -

THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF SOLDIERS, BUT GARGANTUA ALONE COULD DEFEAT AT LEAST A MILLION.

THE GIANT WAS "OCCUPIED" BY OUR TROOPS!

VICTORY! COMPLETE VICTORY!

W-WATCH OUT... YOU'RE TICKLING MY NOSE WITH THOSE TINY SWORDS!... AAH... AAAH... AAAHH...!

ET...

CIOUM!!

RUN!

HE HAS THE FORBIDDEN SNEEZE!

PEACE BE WITH YOU!

YOU DID IT, YOU SCARED THEM OFF. YOU DESERVE A REWARD FOR YOUR GOOD DEED...

I'LL LET YOU TASTE THE CONVENT'S SPECIALTY... *BORDEAUX-STYLE TRIPE SOUP!*

MEANWHILE, THE GREAT SQUIRE, FANFARONE, WAS SUFFERING THE WRATH OF THE FURIOUS LEADER OF PARIS, KING PICROCOLE.

IDIOT! MORON! INCOMPETENT! YOU'RE FIRED!

PLEASE... I HAVE A FAMILY, YOUR MAJESTY. GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE.

FINE, I'LL BE NICE. ONE MORE CHANCE!

LEAD AN ARMY TO DESTROY GRANGOLA'S CASTLE! NOW!

I WILL!

MEANWHILE..

TO ARMS, YOUR HIGHNESS! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

GODS! WHAT DO THE PARISIANS WANT FROM US? WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GOOD ALLIES!

BY ATTACKING GRANGOLA, THE PARISIANS SOUGHT TO TAKE REVENGE FOR THE "FAULTS" OF HIS SON, GARGANTUA.

THIS IS BAD. WE NEED GARGANTUA'S HELP, OR WE COULD LOSE.

PING!

PONG!

HEY! I HAVE AN IDEA. WHAT IF WE INVENTED "AIR MAIL"?

ZOM

ZIP

HOW DO WE GET TO HIM NOW? THE CASTLE IS UNDER SIEGE!

HM... THERE MUST BE A WAY...

AND YOU WILL BE THE FIRST "AIR POSTMAN" IN HISTORY!

...WHAT AN HONOR... SIGH!

OH... MAYBE THEY RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION!

BOUM!

I WAS HOPING TO LAND IN A BARN...

PONF

... WRONG TARGET, BUT THIS WORKS, TOO!

?!

G.B. CARPI

IT SEEMS LIKE GRANGOLA INVENTED THE "AIR MAIL" AND ME THE "RODEO".

YUM

TRY IT, GARGANTUA. IT'S DELICIOUS!

HUH...? IS THAT A MAN OR A MOUNTAIN?

UUH!

SFAF

MY SOUP!

NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT SOUP! YOUR FATHER IS IN GRAVE DANGER!

AND SO, GARGANTUA MOUNTED HIS FAITHFUL HORSE AND RUSHED TO THE AID OF HIS FATHER, GRANGOLA, AND HIS FELLOW CITIZENS.

GIDDY UP!

HERE WE COME!

GARGANTUA
-BY RABELAIS -

FROM HILL TO HILL, THE GIANT ONLY NEEDS A FEW GREAT LEAPS TO REACH HIS DESTINATION...

WATCH OUT, IT'S THE GIANT!

THIS ISN'T GOOD!

MY SON! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T WASTE TIME!

SPRONG

WITH YOUR HELP, VICTORY IS CERTAIN!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAD?

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE! I'LL SHOW YOU!

THE PARISIAN'S CANNON FIRE HAS MANAGED TO BLOW A MASSIVE GAP IN THE FRONT WALL...

REST ASSURED, WE CAN CLOSE THIS IN A FLASH.

BUM

BAM

'JUST HAVE TO... TAKE THIS HILL...

CRASH

BY A THOUSAND TRIPE SLICES!

BY A THOUSAND STUFFED TURKEYS!

... AND MOVE IT TO A MORE SUITABLE PLACE.

MAGNIFICENT! IT REALLY LOOKS TAILOR-MADE!

STOMP

YOU SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING, COMMANDER?

I SEE IT! THAT DAMN GIANT IS GONNA DRIVE ME MAD!

THE PARISIAN CANNONS IMMEDIATELY START THUNDERING AGAIN, WITH DOUBLE THE FORCE!

FIREEE!!!

AH!... THEY AREN'T JOKING AROUND.

MAYBE THIS CAN BE REMEDIED WITH A CLUB?

I THINK I'VE INVENTED A NEW SPORT!

WOW, SON! A SPORT FOR GIANTS...

WHAT WILL YOU CALL IT?

TONG

I'LL CALL IT "HEAD-BREAKER"!

STOMP

RUN, MY SOLDIERS! HE DOESN'T MISS HIS SHOTS!

TING!

TONK!

... FIVE... SIX...
... SEVEN...

THEY'RE FLEEING. WE HAVE TO GO AFTER THEM, GARGANTUA!

WAIT...

THIS WAR ONLY STARTED BECAUSE I STOLE THE BELLS FROM PARIS.

G.B. CARPI

THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIND PEACE IS IF I RETURN THEM!

GARGANTUA DIDN'T LIKE WAR, DID HE?

FAR FROM IT... AND FOR THIS VERY REASON HE DECIDED TO RETURN THE BELLS!

GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -

AND WHO WAS THAT, GRANDMA?

BUT THEN, IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT SOMEONE VOLUNTEERED TO BRING THE BELLS BACK TO PICROCOLE HIMSELF.

G.B. CARPI

I... I CAN GO! I CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE ON THIS PERILOUS MISSION!

BUT FRIAR GIOVANNI, HOW WILL YOU MANAGE?

I JUST PUT ON A MORE SUITABLE "CASSOCK".

MAYBE IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME TO GO...

NONSENSE!

IT IS THE SACRED DUTY OF THE FRIARS TO SACRFICE THEMSELVES FOR OTHERS!

UHMM... LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST!

... I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS....

MEANWHILE, IN THE FORTRESS OF CLERMAUD, KING PICROCOLE AND HIS MEN RE-COUNT WHO'S STILL AMONG THEIR RANKS.

EYES OPEN! IF YOU SEE ANYONE APPROACH, READY YOUR WEAPON!

HEY! THOSE ARE THE BELLS OF NOTRE-DAME!

IF WE BRING THOSE BACK TO THE KING, WE CAN GET A NICE REWARD!

STOP RIGHT THERE!

ULP!

AAHH!

SBONK

QIUCK! IT'S OURS NOW!

I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GONNA BE THAT EASY!

EASY?! YEAH, RIGHT! YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR MIND WHEN... I CAN... SEE YOU...!

I-I CAN SLICE YOU ALL, EVEN WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

REALLY? BECAUSE IT SEEMS LIKE THE ONLY THING YOU KNOW HOW TO SLICE IS AIR!

STRIKE !

SPRONG

LET'S CLOSE THE CURTAINS BEFORE GARGANTUA GETS HERE.

IF HE SAW US, THAT WOULD BE SOME BAD NEWS.

YOU SAID IT, RASCALS!

LUCKILY I FOLLOWED YOU, FRIAR GIOVANNI. SEEMS LIKE I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!

GO TO THE KING AND LET HIM KNOW I'M GOING TO PAY HIM A LITTLE VISIT!

CERTAINLY!...

HE WILL BE VERY HAPPY!

ENTHUSIASTIC, EVEN...

URGH!

AND YOU STOP SWINGING THAT SWORD AROUND!

THIS IS NOT THE STUFF OF A FRIAR. YOU'RE GOING TO GET HURT.

OH... IT'S YOU? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?

THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN *TRYING* TO DO FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES! NOW GET BACK ON THAT HORSE...

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

TO KING PICROCOLE, OF COURSE. I'M SURE THE WELCOME WILL BE WONDERFUL.

ALAAARM! THE GIANT IS HEREEE!!

GARGANTUA
- RABELAIS -

HAVE NO FEAR, YOUR MAJESTY! FOR I'VE COME UP WITH A TERRIFIC PLAN!

?!

WE WILL USE THE INGENIOUS DESIGN OF "CHAINED BALLS" TO INCAPACITATE GARGANTUA. IT CANNOT FAIL!

HMM... CAN'T FAIL EH?...

THE LAST TIME I HEARD YOU SAY THAT WE WERE BEATEN LIKE A WORN OUT DRUM SET!

NOW GET BUSY AND DO SOMETHING ACTUALLY USEFUL, OR YOU'RE DEMOTED TO A *SIMPLE SOLDIER!*

YES! I'M ON IT, YOUR HIGHNESS, *IMMEDIATELY!*

THE ENEMY IS IN RANGE. ARE THOSE CANNONS READY?

READY, GENERAL!

STOP!...

DON'T SHOOT! I COME ONLY TO RETURN THE BELLS!

FIRE AT WILL!!!

HA! HA! HA!... I'LL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE FIRST GENERAL WHO MANAGED TO TAKE DOWN A GIANT!

BENG BANG BOUM

GLOM

OHI...! WHAT A TERRIBLE WELCOME!

... THEY'VE HIT MY HORSE, TOO!

GUH!

ZOM

THIS IS WORSE FOR YOU THAN ME! I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I'LL DO SOME REAL DAMAGE!

SPLAF

OH NO... THAT FORTRESS IS ABOUT TO GET "IRONED OUT".

HEEEEEELP!
HE'S ATTACKING FROM ABOVE!
THIS IS THE END, MEN!

SCRASH

I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO! MY HORSE WAS TRIPPED AND SO...

RUN!
EVERYONE, RUN!!

UUHH! PLEASE, HAVE MERCY!

NO MERCY! I WARNED YOU, FANFARONE!

LOWLY SOLDIER IS TOO GOOD FOR YOU! YOU SHALL BE DEMOTED TO A *HORSE!*

SBAM SBAM

AND IF YOU DON'T GALLOP, I'LL RATION YOUR OATS IN HALF!

LOOK AT THEM GO, FRIAR GIOVANNI!

SURE... BUT YOU'RE JUST LETTING THEM GET AWAY?

SO THE OLD PROVERB GOES: "BUILD YOUR OPPONENT A GOLDEN BRIDGE TO RETREAT ACROSS."

WELL, I KNOW A BETTER ONE...

"THE ENEMY WHO FLEES GETS A BEATING!"

FRIAR GIOVANNI MUST TRULY BE A SAINT. WHAT HE WOULDN'T DO TO PUT THOSE URCHINS BACK ON TRACK, RIGHT...?

GARGANTUA
- BY RABELAIS -

AND DID FRIAR GRIOVANNI REDEEM ALL THOSE BAD GUYS BY HIMSELF?

HE DEFINITELY TRIED...

SOMEONE'S ATTACKING FROM BEHIND! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A HUNDRED MEN!

WHAT?! BUT IT'S ONLY ONE! YOU PATHETIC WIMPS! ***TAKE HIM ON!!!***

SBAM

DD

GET HIM!

HOLD HIM DOWN!

TIE HIM UUUUUP!

GASP!

HOLD ON A MINUTE! THIS IS... AREN'T YOU GARGANTUA'S *FRIEND*? WHAT A NICE FIND! WE CAN BLACK-MAIL HIM!

WHILE WE HIDE IN THE FOREST, OUR MESSENGER WILL GO AND WARN GARGANTUA ABOUT HIS FRIEND'S ***DIRE*** SITUATION... AND THEN HE WILL COME RIGHT TO US.

HE'S JUST A SHY AND DEFENSELESS FRIAR! I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT! ANYTHING!

HURRY UP, THEN!

SHORTLY AFTER, IN FACT...

IF YOU DON'T RETURN THE BELLS, FRIAR GIOVANNI WIIL BE ROASTED ALIVE ON ***A SPIT!***

NO!... DON'T HURT HIM!

I'M HERE! I HAVE THE BELLS!

NO... GARGANTUA! DON'T FALL FOR IT!

WHO'S TALKING? WHERE ARE YOU...? I CAN'T SEE ANYONE!

BLOW! BLOW WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!!

DAMN IT! SILENCE HIM!

SWOOSH!!

HELLO, FRIAR GIOVANNI! THAT WAS A GREAT IDEA!

AND YOU HAVE A GREAT PAIR OF LUNGS...

EVEN IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THE BELLS, IT IS NOT RIGHT TO ACCEPT BLACKMAIL. YOU MUST PROTECT YOUR DIGNITY!

RIGHT... BUT NOW, WE'RE RIGHT BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

FIRST OF ALL, GET ME OUT OF THESE ROPES...

WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

... THEN WE'LL COME UP WITH A NEW PLAN TO DELIVER THE BELLS TO PICROCOLE.

I COULD TAKE THEM FOR YOU...

HEY! WHO ARE YOU? WHY ARE YOU IN MY POCKET?

MY NAME IS SUCCIASPINA, NOBLE PRINCE!

WHEN YOU CRASHED ON THAT FORTRESS, I FELL INTO YOUR POCKET, AND DECIDED TO GIVE MYSELF UP AS PRISONER.

IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN BE YOUR MESSENGER OF PEACE.

I THINK THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.

GOOD LUCK, SUCCIASPINA... AND SAY HELLO TO YOUR SILLY KING FOR ME!

MUCH LATER...

... AND SO, GARGANTUA MADE ME HIS AMBASSADOR. HE'S TIRED OF THIS WAR, AND ONLY WANTS TO RETURN THE STOLEN BELLS!

DOES THAT MEAN YOU'VE AGREED TO ENTER HIS SERVICE?!

YOU TRAITOROUS FOOL! YOU NEED TO BE TAUGHT A LESSON!

I'LL HANDLE IT, YOUR MAJESTY!

GASP! NOOOO!

GARGANTUA

- BY RABELAIS -

OH MY! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, MY POOR FRIEND?

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SUCCIASPINA?

KING PICROCOLE SENT HIM RIGHT BACK TO GARGANTUA, TO SHOW THAT HE HELD ABSOLUTELY NO RESPECT FOR HIM OR HIS AMBASSADORS!

SIGH...

PICROCOLE TOOK THE BELLS... BUT INSTEAD OF RINGING ***THEM*** IN CELEBRATION... HE RANG ***ME!***

THIS HAS GONE ON FOR ***LONG ENOUGH!*** I NEED TO CLEAN IT UP, ONCE AND FOR ALL.

GOOD LUCK GARGANTUA, AND TRY NOT TO BE LATE FOR DINNER!

I'LL BE FAST!


HE'S BACK! EVERYONE, GET READY!
TYPICAL WELCOME!


INFANTRY... ATTACK!
STICK TO FORMATION!
ALL TOGETHER, ON THE GIANT!


HEH, HEH! 'OUTTA THE WAY, YOU LOAFERS! I GOTTA KEEP THE FLOOR CLEAN!
HELP!
CULP!

I GOTTA USE SOAP AND WATER TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING GETS CLEANED!

Cavalry... Attaaack!!

THE SOLDIERS WERE OVERWHELMED BY A FLOOD OF FOAM AND SOAP...

SCION

... AND KING PICROCOLE, NOW ALONE, MADE HIS HASTY RETREAT, AND WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

TIME TO SWEEP UP THE BATTLEFIELD!

AS I PROMISED, I'LL BE HOME BEFORE DINNER. FINALLY THIS WAR IS OVER.

SO THAT'S THE END OF THE STORY, RIGHT?

YES... IT ENDED WITH A MASSIVE BANQUET, TO WHICH GARGANTUA INVITED ALL OF HIS DEFEATED FOES, TOO!

G.B. CARPI

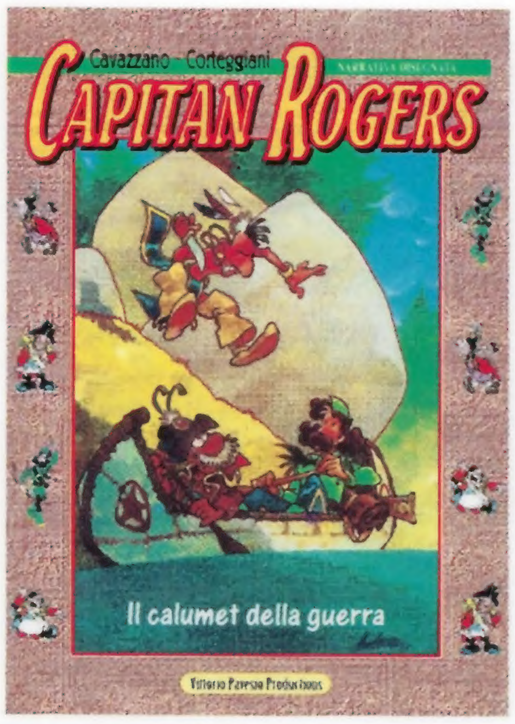
AND MAY THIS TOAST FOREVER SEAL THE PEACE BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES!

HA! HA! MY SON TRULY IS **GRAND** IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD!

FINE

collection

Graphic Novel





Upcoming publications:

BENITO JACOVITTI
GIORGIO REBUFFI
LUCIANO BOTTARO

For years, Italian comic authors have been waiting for an opportunity to present their works and characters to readers once again.

A long period of editorial difficulties has continually stood in the way of their dreams to show the public their magnificent and creative storytelling abilities. Now, finally, this possibility is here. We decided to take a risk. Even though the Italian publishing industry is currently unwelcoming to projects like this, we tried again anyway, because we love this fascinating art form that we call comics. Elsewhere, it is also called "the ninth art form" and the great Hugo Pratt liked to call it "drawn literature".

Comic art is its own language. It is a way of communication that has ancient roots in human history and art expression. The comic art form has continued to be refined and explored in this current century. Comic artists are always exploring new horizons and pushing the boundaries of what can be accomplished in comic form. We must celebrate the present work of today's artists, the works of the masters that came before them, and the ones that will come after. In this series, we present comic works created by some of the greatest professionals in the medium.

These artists combine text and illustrations in such a way as to tell unique stories that would other-wise be difficult to portray in simple words. This editorial initiative stems from the joint effort of authors and publishers who love drawn fiction and want to see it grow again, towards a bright future full of wonderful surprises. A future that has already begun to flourish and one that we want to share with you.

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